



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

to the California Medical Association

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE of the Woman's Auxiliary has only one permanent project—recruiting new members and retaining those who are already members. Both of these objectives can be accomplished by an exciting new project, **Joint Husband-Wife Membership**.

In her report to the AMA House of Delegates at the Clinical Convention last November, Mrs. William H. Evans, President of the Woman's Auxiliary to the American Medical Association, outlined several ways in which the Auxiliary can be put to work to help America's physicians. Mrs. Evans told the House: "There is a very large gap between the AMA membership and that of the Auxiliary—more than 110,000. It is our hope that each local society will help us close this gap by creating a joint husband-wife membership. Through this, the wife automatically becomes an Auxiliary member when her husband is accepted into the medical society. The potential that lies within a group of 86,000 dedicated women is great . . . I ask of you—put us to work."

In response to Mrs. Evans' report, the AMA House unanimously adopted a resolution which urged state and local medical societies "to support fully and to aid and encourage the Woman's Auxiliary to the American Medical Association in all its endeavors, particularly in the joint husband-wife membership project." The Board of Directors of the Woman's Auxiliary to the American Medical Association has also approved the joint husband-wife membership described by Mrs. Evans to the AMA House of Delegates.

The California Medical Association recommended joint husband-wife membership three years ago. Now it is up to each county to study the feasibility of this project. The first step is to arrange a meeting with the county medical association's president and appropriate executive committee members with representatives from its Auxiliary (county, executive council and district presidents; treasurer or finance chairman).

There are approximately 23,000 members in the California Medical Association and to date Auxiliary membership is 8,664. The potential in California is overwhelming. The Auxiliary can contribute substantially to the medical association in the field

of community service and in terms of public relations, but to do so will need increased income. Income could be increased by raising dues, true, but this would not get rid of an ever-present inequity, the inequity of the members who are willing to do the Auxiliary's work also carrying the financial support of the organization.

Since all physicians benefit from the Auxiliary's efforts for organized medicine, would it not be equitable that the expenses of the Auxiliary's work and its activities be shared by all the physicians' wives. Therefore I urge each county medical association to give consideration to the project, **Joint Husband-Wife Membership**.

For counties (five in California) that have already put joint membership into effect, I would suggest a second goal—**Orientation of New Members**. Orientation has a twofold value—value to new members learning about medical organizations and Auxiliary work and value as review for present members. Since Auxiliary work is based on the principles of loyalty and service to the medical profession, orientation should include:

1. A brief history of the American Medical Association and its Woman's Auxiliary; our state medical association and its Auxiliary.
2. Lines of communications between the three levels of Auxiliary organization (national, state and county) and the component medical associations.
3. A program on community service and how the Auxiliary has participated over the years.
4. A program of primary importance on medical legislation, reviewing legislation in the past but placing emphasis on the current scene.
5. A program on medical ethics for physicians' wives.

After the recruitment of new members comes the challenge to make them well informed physicians' wives with a sense of loyalty to the medical profession and to their community. The privilege of becoming an informed Auxiliary member is an incentive to belonging.

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